

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 37, and 44 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, 16, 18, 20, and 21 are amended. Claims 3-5, 8, 10-15, 19, 22, 27-28, 31, 34-36 and 38-43 were previously cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement and consideration of the drawings filed June 25, 2003.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement and receipt of the certified priority documents.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 – Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 9, 16-18, 20-21, 23-26, 29-30, 32-33, 37 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent. No. 5,884,004 to Sato et al. ("Sato") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0145702 to Kato et al. ("Kato") and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 5,819,003 to Hirayama et al ("Hirayama") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0108164 Laurin et al. ("Laurin"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Sato teaches or suggests all of the claim limitations, with the following exceptions. The Examiner asserts that Kato teaches an optical recording medium with a data structure for managing reproduction of video data having playback paths for each title, including a map with at least one entry point for an associated clip file in the playback path, a playlist directory storing at least one playlist file including at least one playitem, the playitem identifying a playing interval of the clip file associated with the playback paths, the playitem

identifying the information files associated with the clip files of the playing interval, the playitem including identification information identifying the information file associated with the clip, the playlist storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem.¹ The Examiner asserts that Hirayama teaches a data structure with multiple playback paths for each title, wherein each packet has a packet number differentiating the data packet from the plurality of data packets, a playlist file with path number information identifying which playback paths are associated with the playlist, and a map identifying at least one entry point for an associated clip file by identifying the packet number of the data packet of the at least one entry point.² The Examiner asserts that Laurin teaches a data structure with multiple playback paths for each title, wherein the playitem identifies a same playing interval in each clip file of the plurality of clip files associated with the multiple playback paths.³

As an initial matter, Applicant asserts that Sato is not combinable with Kato, and therefore a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Sato with Kato. Specifically, Sato only discloses an interleaving method of reproducing bitstream data (with multiple playback paths) using a DVD data structure, which is a data structure that is remarkably different from Kato. More specifically, Sato does not disclose a data structure using "clip files," "clip information files," "playlist files," and "playitems," as disclosed by Kato (shown in at least FIG. 2 of Kato; the data structure of Kato supporting, for instance, SDTV and/or HDTV video stream). Therefore, the DVD data structure of Sato is not combinable with the data structure of Kato, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Sato with Kato.

¹ See pgs. 4-5 of the Office Action.

² See pgs. 5-6 of the Office Action.

³ See pgs. 6-7 of the Office Action.

Hirayama and Laurin do not provide any additional motivation to combine the very different data structures of Sato and Kato (nor does the Examiner use Hirayama, or Laurin, for this specific purpose), and therefore any combination of Sato, Kato, Hirayama and Laurin does not teach or suggest a data structure including “a data directory storing a plurality of clip files of the video data having the multiple playback paths, each clip file including a plurality of data packets of the video data being associated with one path of the multiple playback paths” and “a management directory storing management information for managing reproduction of the video data having the multiple playback paths, the management information including a plurality of clip information files, each clip file being associated with one of the clip information files” and “a playlist directory storing a playlist file associated with the multiple playback paths, the playlist file including at least one playitem identifying a same playing interval in each clip file of the plurality of clip files associated with the multiple playback paths for the playlist file, the playitem identifying clip information files associated with the clip files, the playlist file storing connection information between a previous playitem and a current playitem,” as recited in claim 1.

With regard to claim 1, Applicant further asserts that Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin does not teach or suggest “the playlist file including at least one playitem identifying a same playing interval in each clip file of the plurality of clip files associated with the multiple playback paths for the playlist file,” as recited in claim 1. On pgs. 6-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that paragraph [0082] and FIG. 9 of Laurin teaches this limitation. However, Applicant disagrees with this assertion by the Examiner. Laurin teaches a presentation system for multiple audiences. The presentation system may be used to reproduce different versions of a presentation to

different devices on a tour, for instance (e.g., a same video presentation may be displayed on a tour, with different versions representing different languages that are broadcast to groups of headsets). Likewise, the presentation system may reproduce the different versions in different rooms (such as a bar, restaurant, or resort). As shown in FIG. 9, a playlist 128 contains playlist items 124 with multiple play items 126 (such as play item 1A, pointing to scene 1, version 1, or play item 1B, pointing to scene 1, version 2), where each play item plays a version on a different device (or a different room). Therefore, the play item of Laurin does not identify a same playing interval associated with "multiple playback paths for the playlist file" (as recited in claim 1), as the play item of Laurin instead merely points to a different audio version (for instance, a different language) which is to be played on a different channel (either a different device, or a different room) to be heard by a different target audience. As shown in FIG. 12, each channel (C1, C2, C3) represents the different listening audience, with one stream being output for each one presentation block 102 associated with a playitem 126 (see FIG. 36, where one outputted stream is associated with one presentation block, which is associated with a playitem). Therefore, FIG. 9 fails to illustrate a same play item identifying a same playing interval in multiple playback paths (or, a plurality of versions of a scene). That is to say, by reproducing different data through different channels, Laurin fails to teach or suggest different data being identified by a same playing interval.

Sato, Kato and Hirayama (either singly, or in combination with each other) does not remedy the deficiencies of Laurin, described above. Therefore, Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin does not teach or suggest "the playlist file including at least one playitem identifying a same playing interval in each clip file of the plurality of

clip files associated with the multiple playback paths for the playlist file," as recited in claim 1.

Further with regard to claim 1, Applicant asserts that Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin does not teach or suggest "each clip file including a plurality of data packets of the video data being associated with one path of the multiple playback paths, each data packet having a packet number differentiating the data packet from the plurality of data packets" and "the clip information file providing at least one map, the map identifying at least one entry point for the associated clip file by identifying the packet number of the data packet of the at least one entry point," as recited in claim 1. On pgs. 5-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Hirayama teaches the feature of a packet number differentiating the data packet, with a map identifying an entry point for an associated clip file by identifying the packet number of the data packet of the entry point. However, Applicant disagrees with this assertion.

As an initial matter, Applicant asserts that Hirayama fails to teach an "entry point map" and an "entry point," as recited in claim 1. Instead, Hirayama only teaches a program bar (groupings of data units) and DAT (data unit allocation table) table, where the DAT table merely indicates a lasting time (a duration; which is not an "entry point," as recited in claim 1) for each program bar, as shown in FIG. 8C. In the case where multiple playback paths are being reproduced, each program bar of Hirayama is represented by a different program bar number (number 1, number 2, etc., as shown in at least FIG. 3B), and individual program bars create a story (correlating with the instant "data packets" forming a "playback path," as recited in claim 1). The program bars that are branched (from one another) are different reproduction paths, among multiple reproduction paths. For this reason, Hirayama does not divide "playback

paths" into pluralities of data packets, where each data packet has a packet number assigned to signify the "playback path" associated with it (as recited in claim 1). And, Hirayama does not disclose that each "playback path" is determined based on identifying "packet numbers" of data packets for the "playback path," allowing video data to be reproduced from a middle of a particular "playback path" (as provided by the recited data structure of claim 1). Therefore, the "packet number" (used to differentiate data packets associated with a "playback path") of claim 1 is distinguishable from the program bar of Hirayama. Furthermore, Hirayama does not disclose any "entry point" that is then identified by a "packet number," and Hirayama fails to suggest video data capable of being reproduced from a middle of the program bars of Hirayama.

For each of the reasons argued above, Hirayama does not teach or suggest "each data packet having a packet number differentiating the data packet from the plurality of data packets" and "the clip information file providing at least one map, the map identifying at least one entry point for the associated clip file by identifying the packet number of the data packet of the at least one entry point," as recited in claim 1. Sato, Kato and Laurin (either singly, or in combination with each other) does not remedy the deficiencies of Hirayama, as argued above, nor does the Examiner use Sato, Kato or Laurin for this purpose. Therefore, any combination of Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin does not teach or suggest "each clip file including a plurality of data packets of the video data being associated with one path of the multiple playback paths, each data packet having a packet number differentiating the data packet from the plurality of data packets" and "the clip information file providing at least one map, the map identifying at least one entry point for the associated clip file

by identifying the packet number of the data packet of the at least one entry point,” as recited in claim 1.

Further with regard to Hirayama, the Examiner’s assertions on pgs. 5-6 of the Office Action do not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Specifically, the Examiner’s rejection does not explicitly identify which portion of Hirayama is the “clip file,” recited in claim 1. If the Examiner intends to assert that the program bars of Hirayama constitute a “clip file,” then Hirayama is distinguishable from claim 1 from the standpoint that Hirayama does not disclose “data packets” (also recited in claim 1) making up the “clip file” and providing finer “entry points” identified by the “map” of claim 1. For at least this additional reason, Hirayama (or, Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin) does not teach or suggest “each clip file including a plurality of data packets of the video data being associated with one path of the multiple playback paths, each data packet having a packet number differentiating the data packet from the plurality of data packets” and “the clip information file providing at least one map, the map identifying at least one entry point for the associated clip file by identifying the packet number of the data packet of the at least one entry point,” as recited in claim 1.

With regard to independent claims 16-18 and 20-21, these claims contain features similar to claim 1, such that at least the same arguments can be made.

Additionally, with regard to independent claims 16 and 21 specifically, Applicant asserts that Sato in view of Kato, Hirayama and Laurin does not teach or suggest “reproducing at least one clip file of the video data having the multiple playback paths from a specific entry point identified by the packet number based on the playlist file and the management information” (as recited in claim 16, and similarly recited in

claim 21). As argued above with regard to claim 1, Hirayama does not disclose using packet numbers to assign data packets to “playback paths,” where “entry points” are identified by “packet numbers.” Therefore, for at least the same reasons as those argued above, Hirayama does not teach or suggest “reproducing at least one clip file of the video data having the multiple playback paths from a specific entry point identified by the packet number based on the playlist file and the management information” (recited in claim 16; similarly recited in claim 21). Sato, Kato and Laurin (either singly, or in combination with each other) does not remedy these deficiencies of Hirayama, nor does the Examiner use Sato, Kato or Laurin for this purpose.

For at least the reasons argued above, Applicant asserts that independent claims 1, 16-18 and 20-21 are patentable. Due at least to the dependence of the remaining claims on the respective independent claims, Applicant asserts that these remaining claims are also patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this art ground of rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

<Remainder of Page Left Intentionally Blank>

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

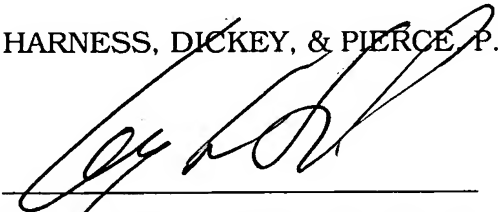
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416

Corey E. Smith, Reg. No. 57,807

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/^{mc3}CES:cfc

1162686.1